

RELIEF WORKERS FIND A NEW LAND

Little Country Only a Mile Square Discovered by Members of American Commission.

IS CALLED MORENET NEUTRE

Known as Country of Perpetual Neutrality—Its People Are Belgians, Germans and Neutres.

London, Jan. 12.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—In an effort to penetrate to every portion of Belgium in their relief work the delegates of the American commission for the relief of Belgium have discovered in the remotest corner of that country a no man's land, which since 1815 has enjoyed absolute independence under a guarantee of perpetual neutrality, which even in the present struggle has never been violated. This little country of one square mile in size is called Moresnet Neutres and has Holland to the north, Belgium to the west and Germany everywhere else. But Moresnet Neutres is neither Belgium, German nor Dutch. It used to be a part of Belgium and was until 1815 like the rest of that country a province of France. By the treaty of Vienna, Belgium and Holland became independent countries, but Moresnet, which at that time held the greatest zinc mine of Europe became a bone of contention between Prussia and the Netherlands. Finally neither got it and the difficulty was solved by making it neutral territory.

The mine of zinc has long since been exhausted in Moresnet, but, digging in deeper strata the vein was continued into Belgium and German territory. Consequently the country has lost its chief reason for retaining its independence, but by keeping the mine smelter in its territory it has continued to receive the same consideration from its powerful neighbors as in the past.

Country Owned by Company.

The whole country is owned by the Vieille Montagne company, which, with the exhaustion of the zinc deposits, sought other fields until it has become so internationalized that it is as neutral in its impartial activities as the country where it got its start. The president of the company is Baron Rothschild of Frankfurt, who sells products from the company's mines in Germany to that country. They also have mines in France, and their general manager, a loyal Frenchman, is selling zinc to the French government. Their manager in Great Britain where they have a zinc mine in Scotland is a Belgian and he is selling the product to the British government. The company has mines in Africa and other remote places, and under its international management is prospering.

Everything Fifty-Fifty.

The country is governed by two burgomasters, one named by the German and the other by the Belgian governments. There are 2,000 Germans, 2,000 Belgians and 400 Neutres in the country. To become a Neutre it must be proven that one's family has resided in Moresnet 100 years. The Belgians are under their own burgomaster, the Germans under theirs, while the Neutres have the privilege of choosing between the two. In criminal cases the burgomaster can choose either German or Belgian judges. But whatever judge is selected must use the Code Napoleon and make his decision in accordance with its principles.

The taxes are also equally divided between Germany and Belgium as are the two postoffices.

When the little country began to suffer for a lack of food the problem of relief became acute. The country was not German, therefore the Germans refused to feed the Belgians while the latter refused to admit food for the feeding of the Germans. An effort was made to separate the two, but they were found so mixed, living in the same house, members of the same family and many speaking the same tongue, that any separation was impossible. It was found that all or none must be fed. And moreover in the original dispute the Neutres seem to have been forgotten. Finally a rough compromise was made whereby the commission supplied the people of the whole country with bread while Germany furnished them with meat, potatoes and butter.

In attempting to feed the Moresnet people the commission faces some problems out of all proportion to the size of the country. Under its agreements with the various belligerents it must if possible only import food from neutral countries, but the frontier of Moresnet with Holland is the apex of a triangle without roads and for obvious reasons Germany does not desire any communication to be established from that direction.

Difficult to Get Into.

Some idea of the difficulty of getting into Moresnet may be gained from the following description of the trip which two of the delegates of the commission made to the country.

"In order to reach Moresnet we jour-

MRS. MOHR SNAPPED ON WAY TO COURT



Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr.

This picture of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, now on trial in Providence, R. I., charged with having investigated the death of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, was taken since the opening of the trial. Mrs. Mohr declares that she did not cause her husband's death, although many witnesses have sworn to the contrary.

neyed by automobile from Liege for about two hours to some of the most beautiful districts in the Ardennes, mounting gradually higher until at last on the opposite side of a little stream, the black and white striped bars across the bridge announced that we had reached the border. The stripe also told us that this was Prussian territory. We stopped and showed our passports. The English-speaking German officer objected that they were not valid for Prussian territory. On telling him that we were on a tour of inspection and did not desire to enter Prussian territory, he explained that to reach Moresnet Neutres we would have to cross about 12 feet of Prussian soil. We finally found that by climbing a fence we could reach the country without invading Prussia. The officer, however, objected, and at last we discovered that half of the road was neutral while the other half was Prussian. We offered to keep the automobile on the wrong side of the road and thus evade the Prussian territory. After a long wait occupied with much telephoning we were permitted to cross the 12 feet of Prussian territory with unvisited passports, provided a German officer was in attendance. The gate was lifted, we entered Prussia and turning sharply to the left began climbing the hill in Moresnet. We reached the home of the president of the relief committee, who is also the manager of the Vieille Montagne company, and not until we asked him for an explanation of our difficulty in reaching him did we learn that we were in no country that we had ever heard about."

MOLINE SECRETARY NAMED A DELEGATE

O. F. Hildebrandt, secretary of the Greater Moline committee, is advised that he has been chosen delegate to the National Security league congress, to be held in Washington, D. C., Jan. 20, 21 and 22. He has not decided whether or not he will attend. Notification of his appointment together with credentials were received today from Herbert Barry, secretary of the congress. Opening session will be held at 2 Thursday afternoon in the new Willard hotel. "Eminent speakers will discuss various phases of preparedness with special reference to the position of the United States in the light of the world's politics," says the invitation. S. Stanwood Menken is president, Joseph H. Choate is the honorary president and Alton R. Parker is honorary vice president of the league.

MAN WHO SAVED LIFE ADMIRAL EVANS, DEAD

Marshfield, Ore., Jan. 15.—Friends are mourning today the death here of Captain Alfred Matson, who claimed to have saved the life of the late Admiral Robley D. Evans, when a midshipman, in the battle of Fort Fisher in the Civil war. He was 75 years old and had been captain of coasting and harbor steamers along the Pacific coast.

Matson was a sailor in the landing party which assaulted Fort Fisher when Midshipman Evans was shot and fell beneath the guns of the fort. He carried him to safety.

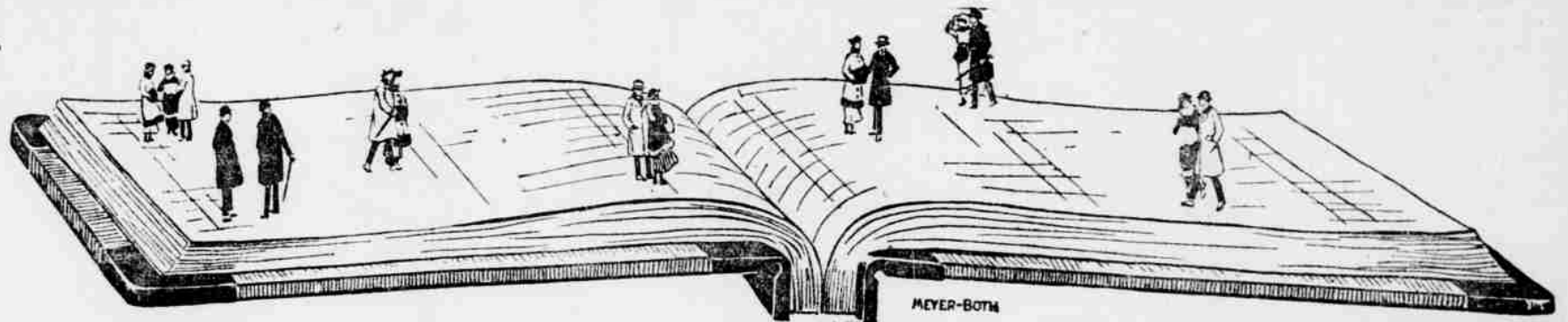
CONVICTS TO HAVE MUSIC WITH MEALS

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 15.—Music at meals for some 750 convicts of the western penitentiary here has been decided on by Colonel Charles A. Rock, president of the board of prison inspectors. It also was arranged to employ an instructor to drill the convicts in physical exercises.

Russian Order 32,000 Machine Guns.

New York, Jan. 15.—The announcement that the Russian buying commission in the United States has approved contracts for \$22,000,000 worth of machine guns with four American companies was made today. The contracts call for 32,000 machine guns and is said to be the largest order of its kind placed here since the beginning of the war.

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ROME RECEIVES BELGIAN PRIMATE

Great Reception Is Accorded Cardinal Mercier Upon His Arrival in Italian City.

Rome, Jan. 14, (7:10 p. m.)—Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, arrived in Rome today and was received at the station by the Belgian ministers accredited to the Vatican, by Sir Henry Howard, British minister to the Vatican, Monsignor Desampere, papal master of the chamber, and a large number of residents of the Belgian colony. A large crowd of Italians also greeted the cardinal, crying "Viva Mercier, Viva Belgium," accompanying him along streets to the Belgian college where he is stopping.

In the municipal council Prince Colonna, mayor of Rome, and several members of the council welcomed the arrival of Cardinal Mercier in Rome and greeted him as "the man representing the tragic and heroic history of civic virtue of unshakable faith." The speakers also expressed sympathy with Belgium "momentarily crushed" and admiration for the Belgian army, the Belgian people and for King Albert and his queen.

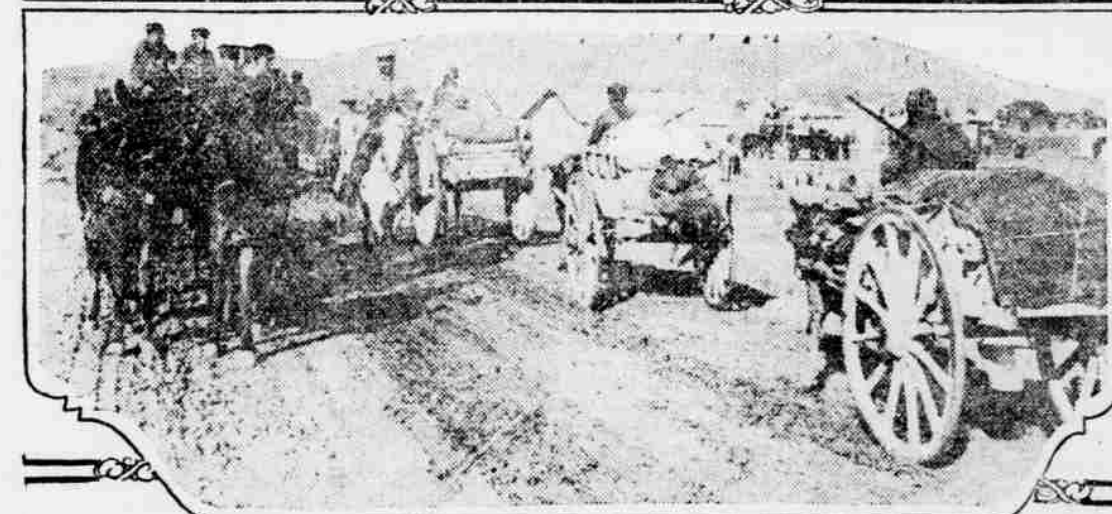
"What I have done was simply my duty," Cardinal Mercier told the representative of the Associated Press tonight, while the people of Rome, comprising all classes, received him in a triumphant manner such as no cardinal of any nationality has enjoyed on entering Rome since the fall of the temporal power.

Cardinal Mercier intends to remain in Rome for a fortnight but does not wish to be interviewed, not because he gave any official promise in this regard to the German authorities, but because he considers that he is bound by honor to keep silent. In spite of this he spoke in high praise of the American generosity in helping the destitute Belgians and of the immense debt of gratitude felt by his people towards America. The situation of the unfortunate nation, the cardinal explained, was not so terrible now as immediately after its occupation. Some Belgians were gradually returning to their homes and resuming work.

When asked for his opinion on the probable end of the war Cardinal Mercier exclaimed, "long yet, perhaps this time next winter."

The loud walls from the manufacturers' union are emitted because a rubber sheathing invented for typists' fingers is proving decidedly efficient to protect the nails.

WAR TIME SCENES AT SALONICA AND IN TURKISH ASIA



Water boxes on Turkish desert; placed by Germans to aid Ottoman allies; British and Greek transports passing each other on Salonica road.

The far sighted Germans have placed water boxes at intervals on the Turkish desert in Asia in order that their Ottoman allies may not suffer in making the great march on Egypt. Upper photo shows a great array of boxes at one of the water stations. Lower photo presents a curious contrast between the British and Greek transports. British Tommies look on with interest at the small two-wheeled carts used by the Greeks, which the former pass on the highway near Salonica.

HOUSE IS DAMAGED BY AFTERNOON FIRE

Peter Curvenski's residence, 602 Fifth avenue, Moline, was damaged to the extent of \$600 by fire which broke out at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Roof was burned off the kitchen, one of the rooms of the house was ruined and the plumbing system damaged.

Fire is supposed to have originated because of hot water being poured on some frozen pipes. Blaze started in the bathroom and quickly spread to the kitchen, and had gained considerable headway before the fire department was summoned. More than a half

INJURIES NOT FATAL FOR THOMAS O'BRIEN

Thomas O'Brien, Rock Island man, who was seriously injured in the Williams-White plant early yesterday morning, is considerably improved today, according to the statement of Dr.

hour was spent fighting the flames. Another call was received last evening from the lunchroom on Fifth avenue just off Fifteenth street. A gasoline stove, which was being lighted, proved to be a cause. The fire was extinguished before the department arrived.

Delbert Glass, who was injured in an R. & V. shop fight, is still in critical condition. He was not worse this morning, however, and hopes for his recovery are entertained.

Birds have an extra eyelid, which can be drawn over the eyeball to protect it from the strong sun, while the proper eyelid remains open, enabling them to see.

EAST END PEOPLE ASK PLAYGROUND

Moline Improvement Association Would Have Children Remembered by City.

Need of a children's playground in the east portion of the city was discussed by members of the East End Improvement association of Moline at a meeting held last evening. Suggestion will be made by the association officers to the city fathers that a playground in the east end be established and also that the city acquire at this time a site for a fire station.

Sentiment of the association members is that, while a fire station perhaps will not be needed in that territory for 10 years or more, it would be advisable for the city to procure a piece of land now, while it is available at a moderate price and hold it for exclusive purpose of using it as site for an engine house.

It is hoped that the city will provide a suitable playground for the children this summer.

East St. Louis, Ill.—The recount of ballots at the last city election has been completed and Mayor Molman had a lead of 14 votes over his opponent, former Mayor Chamberlin. The circuit court has not yet passed on 279 disputed ballots which were not included in the count.

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AUCTION PUBLIC SALE

on Big Island, Louis F. Eckhart's farm, 2 1/2 miles west of Milan, on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 10 o'clock.

Six head of work horses, team of mules, 12 head of cattle, four fresh, others will be fresh soon; one Holstein bull; 700 bushels of well matured corn, 100 bushels of millet seed, 20 bushels of early Jureka seed potatoes; ice house, chicken house, two Indiana silos, and full set of farm implements.

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